श्री भजन लाल : सभापति महोदय, इन्होंने कहा कि ऐसी स्कीम बनानी चाहिए कि जिससे बाढ़ न आए आप जानते हैं कि जितना नुकसान होता है वह ब्रहमपुत्र की वजह से होता है । ब्रह्मपुत्र में पानी ज्यादा आने की वजह से बाढ़ आती है। आप समझने की कृपा कीजिए। इन्होंने कहा कि मंत्री जी को कुछ आता नहीं है : इनको पता नहीं है कि जितना पोलिटिकल ज्ञान इनका है उतना तो मैं जेब में फालतू रखता हूं . . . (**व्यवधान**) . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please don't; interrupt.

श्री भजन लाल : लेकिन अफसोस की बात है कि पुराने मैम्बर भी ऐसी बात कहते हैं । बड़ी मुश्किल से इन्होंने राज्य सभा देख ली। आइंदा पता लगेगा दुबारा चुनकर आओगे तब । हमारा बहुत पुराना तजुर्बा है ।

DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: We did not come to Rajya Sabha by high jacking the entire legislature party. We came to Rajya Sabha on our own right.

श्री भजन लाल : आपने जो बात कही उसका जवाब तो दे देना ही चाहिये। (**व्यवधान**) आप जो कहेंगे उसका जवाब हमको देना होगा । (**व्यवधान**) मैंने यह कहा कि ब्रहमपुत्र के लिये असम गवर्नमेंट को पहले से कहा था कि आप इसके नियंत्रण के लिये इंतजाम करिये और जो इसके बैंक्स है उनको मजबूत करिये। असम गवर्नमेंट ने पिछले दो साल से एक पैसा भी ब्रहमपुत्र के दोनों तरफ जो बैंक्स है उनको ठीक करने पर खर्च नहीं किया । कसूर स्टेट गवर्नमेंट का है और दोष भारत सरकार पर लगाते हैं । काम खुद नहीं करते (**व्यवधान**) . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is talking about Assam. The question is about Assam.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: The Minister has referred to all India floods.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is not on all-India floods.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: His reply was...

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is limited to Assam.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: His supplementary was in a general form. The Minister is expected to reply to his supplementary. अगर वह जनरल सवाल पूछ रहे है तो मिनिस्टर साहब को जवाब दे देना चाहिये। यह असम पर जवाब दे रहे है. . . (**व्यवधान**) . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: In his supplementary when he was going out of it I was trying to check him.

श्री जसवंत सिंह : अगर यह सवाल नहीं है तो यह जवाब कैसे दे रहे हैं . . . (**व्यवधान**) . . .

श्री सभापति : वह असम के बारे में जवाब दे रहे है । (**व्यवधान**)

You are an old Member and you know that supplementary arises out of the question, Q. No. 42.

*42. [The Questioner Shri V. Narayanasamy) was absent. For answer vide cos....29-39 infra.]

Import of steel

*43. SHRI DIPEN GHOSH:†
SHRI M. A. BABY:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to import over 1.6 million tonnes of steel to meet the gap between its demand and supply for this year; and

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Dipen Ghosh.

(b) if so, which are the agencies entrusted to import this steel?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR): (a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The import plan for 1988-89 envisages the import of 1.6 million tonnes of finished steel including alloy and stainless steel.

(b) MMTC, SAIL and the actual users import different categories as per the import policy in force. Engineering units engaged in the export of their products can also import various items of steels under the replenishment and advance licensing systems.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the reply is very cryptic though it has been formed as a statement. It is not at all a statement. It is a one-sentence reply. However, as it appears from the reply Indian Government is envisaging an import of mainly alloy and stainless steel to the tune of 1.6 million tonnes which is a little higher than what we did last year. It portrays another grim picture. After 40 years of independence, after building up so many plants and after investing a lot of money, still we have to depend on import to meet the gap between the demand and supply of steel in our country. So my first supplementary is may I know from the Minister what steps the Government has been taking or planning for achieving self-reliance on the requirement of steel in our country?

SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR: Sir, the hon. Member has stated that what I have said in my reply is not a statement in full. Of course, I do agree that it is not a statement. But I did not want to lose the time of the House by reading these five or six lines. I wanted to be as brief as possible. This is number one. Number two, the hon. Member has said that this year perhaps we are importing more steel than what we did last year. I very humbly disagree with the hon. Member. This year, we are importing less than what we had imported last year. I will give the figures to the hon. Member that during the last three or four years, there is a declining trend. Every year we are reducing the imports of steel.

So far as our strategy for becoming self-reliant or self-sufficient in the production of steel is concerned, I may tell the hon. Member that we have launched a massive investment programme in the steel sector. We have taken steps to modernise those steel plants which are very old. We are adopting another strategy, that is the quality characteristic of production. We will increase the quantum of production; we will improve the quality of steel and we will try to conserve as much energy as possible so that the Government is able to provide the best steel at the cheapest cost.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I take the cue from the last words of his statement, "at the cheapest cost." Obvously, "at the import something, the price question comes in. So, will the Minister kindly inform us, what is the import cost of these items which they are proposing to import and what is the price of the indigenous produce on that count and if the price of indigenous produce is higher, then what steps the Government are proposing to take to bring down the price of the indigenous steel?

SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR: Sir, it is very difficult to make any firm commitment about the cost of production of steel. In the commercial interest, neither I can say in Parliament what is the actual cost of

production nor any other foreign country will say what is their actual cost of production because they have to export and we have also to export. What I can say is what is the foreign exchange involved for importing steel. That I can say. But what is the actual cost of production of steel, I am sorry, I will not be able to say. (*Interruption*)

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: I wanted to know the input cost, the price of the indigenous produce and the difference between the two. If the price of indigenous produce is on the higher side, then what steps the Government are going to take to bring down the price of the indigenous produce? I did not want the cost of production.

SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR: If you want to know how much foreign exchange is involved in that, I will give that. o far as....(*Interruption*). Please listen. Please do not argue sentence by sentence. So far as the cost of steel is concerned, there are various items of steel. If you ask about the price of a specific item of steel, I will be able to tell you. So far as the foreign exchange which is involved in importing steel is concerned, I can tell you that this year it is about Rs. 900 crores. (*Interruption*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: He says that you can ask item-wise.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: The other part of my question is, certainly there is difference, either on the lower side or on the higher side, between the import cost and the indigenous cost. What steps is the Government going to take to bring the indigenous price on par, at least to lower the indigenous price, so that indigenous produce becomes more attractive?

SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR: I think I have already told the hon. Member that we are trying to improve the quality characteristic of production. That means that we will use minimum energy, improve the quality of steel and lower the input cost of steel. That is what I have already said.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Sir, it is stated in the answer, "1.6 million tonnes of finished steel including alloy and stainless steel". I want to know whether in this quantity pig-iron is included. Sir, I would like also to say that in this connection. The small-scale industry, particularly in Gujarat, Maharashtra and Punjab, is at present affected because of total shortage of pig-iron and factories have been closed down. This matter was raised in the last session also. Pig-iron shortage has become a chronic problem for the small-scale industry. Factories are closed because of this problem in U.P., Gujarat. Amritsar and Batala in Punjab and Maharashtra. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether there is any permanent solution for this. Also, will a favourable attitude be adopted to supply pig-iron particularly to the small-scale industry as early as possible, as at present factories are closed?

SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR: The hon. Member is trying to give a very grim picture of some other States. I think in so far as his own State or district is concerned, there is no problem.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: You must be receiving complaints from Maharashtra. I am receiving telegrams about this.

SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR: I think the hon. Member should not have any complaint so far as Maharashtra or Kolhapur district is concerned in respect of pig-iron supply.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is there any partiality because of him?

SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR: Not because of partiality but because

we love Maharashtra. They are industrious people. This figure of 1.6 million tonnes of steel does not include pig-iron. I will give pig-iron figures separately. This year, the total demand as we assumed at the beginning of the year was 1.7 million tonnes of pig-iron. And the expected production is 1.4 million tonnes. The gap is three lakh or 0.3 million tonnes. We have recently ordered for two lakh tonnes. Of that, 1,30,000 tonnes have already arrived and another 70,000 tonnes are in the pipeline.

So far as the question of Punjab is concerned, we have taken steps to see that the industry in Punjab which is based on pig-iron does not suffer. I think nobody from Punjab will have any complaint, either from Batala or from any other place. So far as the question of adequate supply of pig-iron is concerned I must share this with the honourable Member that at the beginning of the year we just changed the policy that we should produce more steel which is costlier than pig iron and we should import pig iron which is less costly. But we are trying to evolve a strategy in which the Ministry will not have to do much. I do not want that the Ministry should have a political empire through the distribution of pig iron or of steel. We are trying to evolve a methodology which will rationalise or streamline the distribution of pig iron or other items of steel which are in short supply.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: I entirely agree with the Minister that even large manufacturers of steel are net importers or they import certain sections of steel. That is not what surprises us. What surprises is the fact that we are importing such large quantities and given the conditions in our country this is almost the capacity of one whole steel plant, these quantities that seem to be imported. What I would like to know from the honourable Minister is this. We have been importing certain special sections of steel. Would you clarify and enlighten the House which are the categories of steel which are imported or proposed to be imported? Does this quantity of 1.6 million tonnes include certain items which the country should have been producing after all these years and should not really import? I came across a news report that cold rolled steel sheets are in tremendous short supply in this country and that the automobile manufacturers will have to close down their production from October this year if imports are not allowed. Is this bad planning or is this the real requirement based on planned production? This is all I would like to know from the Minister.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He wants to know about cold rolled steel sheets.

SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR: I think the honourable Member should have taken a hint from the statement I made earlier that we are proposing to have additional capacity and capability for this item of steel. So far as these items of steel are concerned, I agree with the honourable Member that we were not producing so much. But planning is not bad. We have already planned for the automoble industry. They do not required general CR categories so much as they require DD and EDD type of steel. In his State of Bihar, in Bokaro, we are going to commission the cold rolling Mill plant in the current year and I don't think there will be any difficulty for this type of steel. So far as other types of steel are concerned, I may tell the honourable Member, when I said that the additional capacity we are creating will be based on sponge iron, we would like to save as much froeign exchange as is possible. If we allow on the basis of use of scrap, that would just lead to outgo of foreign exchange. We are allowing creation of additional capacities on expansion of such types of steel which are high-cost steel in the country which cannot be produced in sufficient quantities in the public sector. I think after some time, after the 8th

Five Year Plan, there will be no difficulty or no shortage of this type of steel.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: I am very happy that the Government had decided to have that HR plant in Bokaro and this will enable the country to save foreign exchange to a large extent. Since the last three years SAIL is doing excellent work by good management. When I see the figures this year the production, as compared to the earlier years, has gone up. In view of that Government has reviewed the position and accordingly decided to reduce imports. I would like to know from the Minister out of this 1.6 million tonnes how much Government has imported till this date. Now this year will be over shortly. To what extent have you imported so far and in view of the increased production do you still need to do further imports?

SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR: The honourable Member is correct that we are each year reducing the dependence on imported steel. I will just give the figures for the last two or three years to show how much improvement we have made, how much reduction there has been in the import of steel. In the year 1987, we had imported 17.54 lakh tonnes of steel which means 1.8 million tonnes and this year it is only 1.6 million tonnes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 0.2 million is the gap.

SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR: Yes, 0.2 million is the gap. So, every year there is a falling trend in the import of steel. With the increase in production, there will be decrease in import and with increase in production, there will be more demand also and we are going to meet that demand also.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Chaturanan Mishra.

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र : सभापति महोदय, मेरी सूचना के मुताबिक जिस आइटम का हमारे पास अपना उत्पादन है वह भी हम लोग इम्पोर्ट कर लेते हैं क्योंकि ओपन जनरल लाइसेंस के कारण इंजीनियरिंग और दूसरे कारखानों को यह अधिकार है कि अब ये बिना "सेल" या "एम०एम०टी०सी०" से पूछे हुये स्टील का इम्पोर्ट कर सकें। इसलिये मैं मंत्री जी से कहना चाहता हूं कि उन्होंने इस साल का जो फिगर दिया है 1.6 मिलियन टन का वह सिर्फ इनका प्रपोजल है, एक्चुअल में शायद ज्यादा हो जायेगा, लास्ट इयर के बराबर हो जायेगा। लास्ट इयर जैसा इन्होंने कहा है कि 1.8 मिलियन टन इन्होंने इम्पोर्ट किया है तो मैं मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूं कि उसमें कितनी एच.आर. कायल्स, कितनी कोल्ड रोल्ड शीटस और कितना पिग आयरन है यह आइटमवाइज वे हमें बता दें कि कितना इन्होंने इम्पोर्ट किया है और यह भी हमको बता दें कि उसी वक्त में "सेल" में ये वस्तुएं उत्पादित होती थीं या नहीं। हमारी सूचना है कि हमारे जो प्राइवेट सेक्टर के लोग हैं वे आपके ओपन जनरल लाइसेंस का नाजायज फायदा उठाकर बाहर से मंगा लेते हैं। इसलिए इन दोनों आंकड़ों को कृपया आप विस्तृत करें।

श्री माखन लाल फोतेदार : माननीय सदस्य जो कह रहे हैं कि इस साल 1.6 मिलियन टन का इम्पोर्ट हुआ है लेकिन मैंने वह नहीं कहा कि आयात हुआ है। मैं कहता हूं कि इस अप्रेल से दिसम्बर तक 1.1 मिलियन टन का आयात हुआ है और मैं समझता हूं कि शायद 1.5 मिलियन टन ही हो पायेगा। प्लान है 1.6 मिलियन टन का लेकिन दो या तीन महीनों में ज्यादा से ज्यादा हम कुल मिलाकर डेढ़ मिलियन टन ही ला सकते हैं। इसका मतलब यह है कि हमने प्लान बनाया 1.6 मिलियन टन का लेकिन एक्चुअल आ पायेगा 1.5 मिलियन टन, एक बात। दूसरी बात अनरेबल मेम्बर ने फरमाया है कि किस-किस आइटम

की स्टील कितनी मात्रा में पिछले साल लायी गयी। मेरे पास लिस्ट बहुत बडी है, मैं हाउस का समय नहीं लेना चाहता हूं। अगर आनरेबुल मेम्बर चाहें तो उनको भेज दूंगा।

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र : जो चीजें आपने मंगवायीं, वे आपके "सेल" के स्टाक में थी या नहीं थी। कुछ आइटम तो कहिये और पूरी लिस्ट भेज दीजिएगा, लेकिन मदन भी तो आश्वस्त हो कि आप क्या कर रहे हैं कुछ आइटम कहिये कि जो स्टाक आपके पास नहीं थी वही मगाया या वे ही आइटम्स कहिए जो "सेल" के पास थे लेकिन प्राइवेट मालिकों ने मांगा लिये। इन दोनों में कुछ आइटम्स तो कहिये।

श्री माखन लाल फोतेदार : कुछ आइटम्स में जैसे जी.पी.जी.सी. शीट हैं जिस टाइप की जी.पी.जी.सी. शीट चाहिये वह "सेल" के पास दरकार नहीं हो तो हम ऐसे आइटम्स की इजाजत... **(व्यवधान)**...दे देते हैं। मेरे पास आइटम्स की सूची है। जी.पी.जी.सी. शीट्स हमने इम्पोर्ट किये हैं।

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र : जो आप प्रोड्यूस करते हैं उसी वरायटी की बात कीजिए। जो हम नहीं प्रोड्यूस करते है वह तो मंगाना पड़ेगा लेकिन जो हम प्रोडयूस करते है उसके बारे में कहिए।

श्री माखन लाल फोतेदार : जरा शांत रहिये। हम जो प्रोडयूस करते हैं लेकिन जिस क्वालिटी का कंज्यूमर को चाहिये जिस टाइप का चाहिये वह अगर "सेल" के पास नहीं है तो उसकी आयात की हम इजाजत दे देते है... **(व्यवधान)**।

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र : एक भी आइटम कहा नहीं कि जिसको प्रोड्यूस करते हैं और उसको मंगाया गया... **(व्यवधान)**...

MR. CHAIRMAN: It will take time because it is a long list. He will send it to you.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: I wanted only a few items. After all the House should be informed. I do not want the long list.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: Mr. Mishra, without getting a clearance from the SAIL, they do not allow any import.

श्री माखन लाल फोतेदार : अगर आप इसी में शायद हो जायगे तो पिग आयरन "सेल" प्रोड्यूस करता है। हम पूरी मात्रा में प्रोड्यूस नहीं कर सके इसलिये हम बाहर से लाये तो पिग आयरन एक आइटम है। एच.आर. कायल्स और सी० आर० कायल्म दूसरा आइटम है। हम प्रोडयूस करते है लेकिन उस मात्रा में प्रोड्यूस नहीं करते है जितनी कि यहां दरकार है, इसलिये वह आइटम भी हम बाहर से लाये। इसलिये आप यह नहीं कह सकते कि "सेल" जो प्रोडयूस करता है, वह हम बाहर से लाते हैं। "सेल" जो प्रोडयूस करता है, अगर वह पूरा प्रोडयूस नहीं करता है, जिसकी मार्केट को यहां जरूरत है, तो उस वक्त हम बाहर से मंगवाने की इजाजत देते है। मैंने कुछ आइटम्स दिये है, अगर और आइटम्स चाहिये, तो मैं दे दूंगा।

*44. [*The questioner (Shri K. V. Thangkabalu) was absnent. For nas-wer vide cols. infra.*]

कृषि वैज्ञानिकों द्वारा त्यागपत्र

***45. श्री ईश दत्त यादव :** †
श्री वीरेन्द्र शर्मा :

क्या **कृषि** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि भारतीय कृषि अनुसंधान परिषद से सबद्ध संस्थानों के कई कृषि वैज्ञानिक ने सकाय से त्याग-पत्र देने का फैसला किया है;

(ख) यदि हा, तो ऐसी स्थिति के लिए कौन सी परिस्थितियां जिम्मेदार हैं; और

†सभा में यह प्रश्न श्री ईश दत्त यादव द्वारा पूछा गया।